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Amendment A

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2005 Applicants provide the following. Claims 7, 9-13 and 15-17 have been amended without adding new matter. The claims have been amended to correct the miss numbered claims in the original application. Seventeen claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-17. Reconsideration of claims 1-17 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,197,691 (*Amon et al.*).

Amon et al. disclose an optical arrangement for use in bore sighting a plurality of optical paths utilized in a missile beam guidance system to the target trackers used therewith. The optical arrangement (shown in Fig. 7c) includes two optical paths. The first optical path includes two reticle wheels 54, 56, a mirror 76, a beam splitter 78, and a parabolic mirror 82. The second optical path includes a first mirror 86, a second mirror 88, the beam splitter 78 and the parabolic mirror 82. The first mirror 86 is positioned as shown in Fig. 7c in order to direct a laser beam along the second optical path. In order for the laser beam to travel in the first optical path, the first mirror 86 is moved out of the path of the laser beam. *Thus, the entire laser beam either travels along the first optical path or the second optical path depending upon the position of the mirror 86.*

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In contrast, claim 1 recites "a beam splitter for splitting a main beam into a first split beam and a second split beam; a first beam path for the first split beam, the first beam path including a first aperture, a first lens and a second lens; a second beam path for the second split beam, the second beam path including a second aperture, a third lens and a fourth lens; and a plurality of mirrors arranged such that the first split beam and the second split beam intersect at the target (emphasis added)."

In the office action, the mirror 86 of *Amon et al.* has been equated to the beam splitter recited in the claim. *As described above, the mirror 86 does not split the beam but reflects the beam along the second optical path described above.* Alternatively, the mirror 86 is moved such that the mirror does not come into contact with the laser beam, allowing the laser beam to travel along the first optical path. The mirror 86, thus, is not a beam splitter, but is used to direct an entire laser beam along one of two optical paths. Therefore, *Amon et al.* does not teach or suggest "a beam splitter for splitting a main beam into a first split beam and a second split beam," such as is claimed by Applicants.

Further, claim 1 recites a first beam path for the first split beam and a second split beam path for the second split beam, where each beam path includes an aperture and two lenses. The only beam splitter shown in *Amon et al.* is beam splitter 78. After the laser travels through beam splitter 78 in *Amon et al.* the beam contacts the parabolic mirror 82 and is directed onto a target. However, *Amon et al.* does not show two beam paths for previously split beams that include an aperture and two lenses. Therefore, *Amon et al.* does not teach or suggest "a first beam path for the first split beam, the first beam path including a first aperture, a first lens and a second lens; [and] a second beam path for the second split beam, the second beam path including a second aperture, a third lens and a fourth lens," such as is claimed by Applicants.

Still further, as described above, *Amon et al.* does not split a main beam into a first split beam and a second split beam. The entire laser beam either travels along the first path or is reflected by the mirror 86 along the second path. Therefore,

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Amon et al. does not have two split beams that intersect at a target. Therefore, *Amon et al.* also does not teach or suggest "a plurality of mirrors arranged such that the first split beam and the second split beam intersect at the target," such as is claimed by Applicants.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that *Amon et al.* does not teach each and every element of claim 1 and therefore, does not anticipate claim 1. Independent claims 9 and 15 contain similar limitations to the limitations found in claim 1. For example, claim 9 recites in part "means for generating a beam of light; means for splitting the beam of light into a first split beam of light and a second split beam of light; [and] means for directing the first split beam of light and the second split beam of light at a target such that the first split beam of light and the second split beam of light intersect at a first angle." Claim 15 recites in part "generating a beam of light; splitting the beam of light into a first split beam of light and a second split beam of light; and directing the first split beam of light and the second split beam of light at a target such that the first split beam of light and the second split beam of light intersect at a first angle." Therefore, for many of the reasons recited above with reference to claim 1, independent claims 9 and 15 are also not anticipated by *Amon et al.* The rejection of claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-17 are also overcome at least because of their dependency upon their corresponding independent claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and request a timely notice of allowance.


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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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